

**Los Alamos**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

**memorandum**

Accelerator Production of Tritium  
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**Subject: Memo to All LANL Employees Working on APT**

We know that all of you share with us disappointment in the Secretary of Energy's decision to designate Accelerator Production of Tritium as the backup technology. Many of you have talked to us about your future within the Project and have expressed concern about how the Laboratory will respond. You should know that the Senior Management, starting with the Laboratory Director, John Browne, is fully aware that APT has drawn personnel from among the very best. The Laboratory does not intend that those resources be lost.

Our mission remains the same, assuring that the Nation has an adequate tritium supply. Our role is now defined as that of backup, and as such we must be fully prepared to implement APT as rapidly as possible, if called upon. We must complete our work in Engineering Development, fully documenting the results to capitalize on the spectacular successes of the past four years. And, we must complete a preliminary design package to preserve the nation's ability to build an APT plant, if necessary. Further, we must do all of this with a reduced funding of \$128M in FY1999 and gradually decreasing budgets through 2002.

We will deal with this change just as we have with the many technical challenges that have faced us over the past years—we will work our way through it and find a solution that works. By that, we mean a solution that can fulfill the new role, and in the case of Los Alamos staff, integrate those who can no longer stay with APT into other Laboratory activities. Fortunately, there are many job openings available within the Laboratory, thus providing options for LANL APT employees. The APT Project Office is committed to working with Group and Division Offices to assure that we are able to facilitate the transition of APT personnel to other jobs.

In order to assure a backup capability for tritium production, the Department has plans to provide funding over the next three fiscal years to allow us to complete nearly all of the Engineering Development and Demonstration work, and about 30% of the plant design. This funding will not be enough to do everything originally planned, but it will be substantial. Perhaps more importantly, it will allow the Project to complete and document the work and to close out in a 'graceful' way, unless we are restarted.

Most of you are aware of the planning that has taken place over the past several weeks as we have begun the process of redirecting the Project to accomplish our new role. The APT management team had two days of presentations from Project staff who will actually accomplish the work to help us make the best possible decisions. We have now determined the funding allocation to carry out the work and know that there will be lost jobs within the Project family. As the backup option, we simply will not do the same amount of work that we would have done if we were going to construct.

Within the PPO, there will soon be a reduction in force. Where possible, the BREI/GA team will try to absorb their staff and use their talents in other business. This will be hard for all of us because of the personal associations and collaborations over the past years, but it is what must be done as a Project.

For Los Alamos staff, the situation is somewhat different. We are confident that the Laboratory can accommodate APT staff who must move off the Project into other activities. There are still a few areas that need to be worked with Division Directors, but there is a Laboratory and DOE commitment to help where needed. Most of the APT workers who will be transitioned to other positions in the Laboratory have already been notified and many are already working in their new positions. As soon as that effort is behind us, we will begin developing work scope details to support the President's budget request of \$88M for APT in FY2000, to give us adequate time to make the changes that will be needed for next year.

We know that you all share our pride in the Project's accomplishments. A lot has been done, but there is still much to do to bring APT to a successful completion. Thanks to all of you for your outstanding support, dedication, and hard work.

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